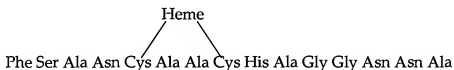


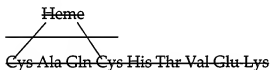
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-6. (Cancelled).

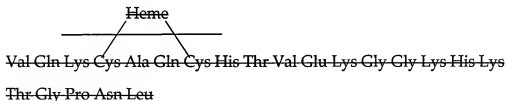
7. (Currently amended)      ~~[[The]] A~~ heme peptide according to claim 1,  
~~wherein the heme peptide is~~ selected from the group consisting of heme peptides  
 represented by the following formulas:



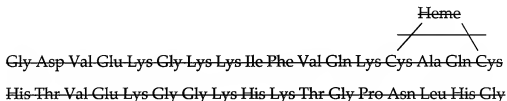
(SEQ ID NO: 3)



(SEQ ID NO: 4)



(SEQ ID NO: 5)



Leu Phe Gly Arg Lys Thr Gly Gln Ala Pro Gly Phe Thr Tyr Thr Asp Ala  
 Asn Lys Asn Lys Gly Ile Thr Trp Lys Glu Glu Thr Leu Met  
 (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Heme

Val Phe Ser Ala Asn Cys Ala Ala Cys His Ala Gly Gly Asn Asn Ala Ile  
 Met Pro Asp Lys  
 (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Heme

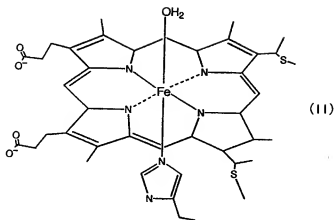
Lys Gly Lys Lys Ile Phe Val Gln Lys Cys Ala Gln Cys His Thr Val Glu  
 (SEQ ID NO: 9)

and

Heme

Val Phe Ser Ala Asn Cys Ala Ala Cys His Ala Gly Gly Asn Asn Ala Ile  
 Met Pro Asp Lys Thr Leu Lys Lys Asp Val Leu Glu  
 (SEQ ID NO: 10)

where the heme means the heme defined in formula-I is a heme nucleus  
represented by the following formula:



8. (Currently amended)      A method of producing the heme peptide according to claim [[1]] Z comprising digesting cytochrome *c* with a restriction enzyme and purifying the resultant digest by gel filtration chromatography.

9. (Original)      The method according to claim 8, wherein the restriction enzyme is selected from the group consisting of thermolysin, trypsin, chymotrypsin, *Achromabacter* protease I and *Staphylococcus aureus* V8 protease.

10-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended)      An NO scavenger comprising the heme peptide according to claim [[1]] Z.

19-22. (Cancelled).